



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: July 12, 2006

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**DEFENDANT INDICTED IN 1992 EXTRADITED FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO FACE CHARGES OF
MARIJUANA SMUGGLING DURING THE LATE 1980's**

Giles Carlyle Clarke, indicted in 1992 in federal court in Mobile, has been ordered extradited from the United Kingdom to face drug charges here. The defendant is alleged to have been involved with an extensive marijuana smuggling organization operated by admitted smugglers husband and wife Billy and Ruby Williams, among others.

The Williams' owned a residence in the area of Roberts Bayou in Baldwin County. A federal search warrant was executed there during May of 1988, and a specially outfitted sailboat was tied to the pier behind the house. In addition to the seizure of a massive amount of documents from the house, federal and state agents seized approximately 7,000 pounds of marijuana and 246 gallons of hashish oil imported into Alabama from Jamaica. The sailboat essentially had a double hull, creating a large compartment between the original hull and the outside hull. The subsequent investigation revealed that the drugs seized in Alabama were the last of a series of loads imported into the United States from Jamaica, and it has resulted in the arrest and prosecution of more than 60 defendants.

Clarke is charged in four counts, including two counts of conspiracy, one count of possession with intent to distribute approximately 6,500 pounds of marijuana, and one count of importation of approximately 6,500 pounds of marijuana imported into Alabama from Jamaica in March of 1988. Each of the counts carries a penalty of from 10 years to life imprisonment.

Clarke was arrested in the United Kingdom on the drug charges from Mobile, and has fought extradition to the United States for the last several years. He arrived in Mobile today, in the custody of United States Marshals.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Customs(now Immigration Customs Enforcement--part of Department of Homeland Security), the Alabama Marine Police and the Alabama Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gloria Bedwell.

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until and unless he is proven guilty at trial.